

EXTENSION OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS.

JUNE 8, 1842.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. RAYNER, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Commerce, to which had been referred the several memorials and resolutions for and against the extension of the port of the city of New Orleans, so as to include the adjoining city of Lafayette, report :

The Committee on Commerce, at the 2d session of the 26th Congress, submitted a report and bill in favor of the memorial asking for the extension of the port of New Orleans, so as to include the adjoining city of Lafayette. Since that time, additional memorials and resolutions have been presented, for and against the extension. The committee have examined the reasons urged on both sides of the question, which are hereby briefly stated, as follows :

The memorialists in favor of the extension rest their claims on the following grounds, viz : That, by an act of Congress, passed on the 9th of February, 1837, it was enacted that the port of New Orleans should extend, on the river, from the lower to the upper corporate limits of the municipalities of the city of New Orleans, and that the limits of the port of New Orleans, as established by the said act, are as follows : "From the Fisherman's canal, on the river Mississippi, (being the lower limit of the third municipality,) to the upper limit of the second municipality. a distance of about five and two-thirds miles, to wit : from the United States custom-house, on Canal street, extending downwards about four miles on the river, and upwards about one and two-thirds mile." That the greatest number of merchants and consignees, having the control of vessels, reside in the second municipality and in the city of Lafayette, and have their warehouses and counting-houses there. That the wharves of the second municipality are wholly insufficient to accommodate all the vessels consigned to agents and consignees residing and having their warehouses and counting-houses in the said second municipality and in the city of Lafayette, where their cargoes are destined to be stored ; and that, in consequence of the collector of the port of New Orleans refusing to permit said vessels to be moored in the city of Lafayette, many of the memorialists have been compelled to have the vessels consigned to them moored at from one to four miles below their warehouses, and are subjected to great expense and inconvenience in attending the discharge and removal of the

cargoes. That the city of Lafayette, although a separate incorporation from that city, adjoins that city, and is but a continuation thereof, and is identified with the interests of the upper part of it. That the city of Lafayette extends about one and one-third mile on the river, and the landing is commodious and safe for vessels of any draught.

For these reasons, the memorialists pray that Congress will amend the act of 9th February, 1837, above referred to, so as to include within the limits of the port of New Orleans the city of Lafayette. These reasons for extension are set forth and urged in a memorial of citizens of New Orleans and city of Lafayette, and a resolution of the board of council of the city of Lafayette, calling on the Senators and Representatives in Congress from the State of Louisiana to support the bill for said extension.

In opposition to the views and wishes of the aforesaid memorialists, the committee have had referred to them resolutions of the general council of the city of New Orleans, and also resolutions of the council of municipality No. 1 and of municipality No. 3, of said city, all protesting strongly against the extension of the port of New Orleans, as petitioned for by the before-mentioned memorialists from the city of Lafayette. The general council, and the councils of municipalities of said city, object to the extension of the port, on the ground that no such extension should be made by Congress, without the assent of the council of each of the three municipalities which compose the city, as well as that of the general council of the same previously obtained; that such extension would be eminently injurious to the interest of the entire city of New Orleans; that the present limits of the port of New Orleans are amply sufficient for all the purposes of its commerce; and that the accommodations, procured at an immense original and yearly additional expense, (in consequence of the constant changes in the bed and banks of the river,) by the construction of wharves, the erection of large and commodious warehouses, the paving and lighting of streets, are amply sufficient for the receipt and delivery of the various wares, goods, merchandise, and produce, of which the city of New Orleans is the great central depot, for transmission to the markets of consumption; that they consider unjust and oppressive in its execution any project having a tendency to admit a portion of another parish (the said city of Lafayette being and lying in a different parish from that in which New Orleans is situated) to an equal participation with them in the benefits resulting from the enormous expenditure which they have made of capital, time, and labor, not only without their consent, but in opposition to it, more especially as no such expenditure of capital, time, and labor, (at least in any commensurate ratio,) has been made by said portion of said parish, viz: in which the city of Lafayette is situated; that the proposed extension of the port will not only be directly and positively injurious to the city of New Orleans, but that it will have a special tendency to promote the designs of a few interested speculators, holders of large quantities of real estate in the city of Lafayette, who seek, by having their port included within that of New Orleans, to promote their own interests at the expense of the inhabitants of the city of New Orleans; that the proposed extension of the port, by extending the jurisdiction of the collector of the customs of said port of New Orleans beyond the limits of the parish in which it is situated, would involve a manifest impropriety. The council of municipality No. 1 protest further against such extension, because, as they say, the port of New Orleans is already too much extended: that

Lafayette, a city in Jefferson parish, is governed by its own public regulations, which would undoubtedly produce disturbance and confusion, by conflicting with those that govern New Orleans.

The committee have carefully weighed the reasons advanced on both sides of the question; and, although they must admit that the inhabitants of the city of Lafayette may suffer some inconvenience from the present arrangement, yet they do not consider their grievances such as to counterbalance the injury and inconvenience that would be incurred by a much greater number of citizens of New Orleans by the proposed extension of the port. The immense original and annual outlay of expenditure by the city of New Orleans, in providing suitable accommodations for its commerce, would seem to forbid any hasty legislation which would transfer the profits of their labors to those who had not shared their burdens. The conflicting regulations of cities lying in different parishes would be productive of great inconvenience and difficulty. The committee therefore report the following resolution:

Resolved, That there is no necessity for extending the port of New Orleans, so as to include within its limits the city of Lafayette.

The first of these is the fact that the population of the United States has increased from 3,929,214 in 1790 to 50,189,291 in 1900. This increase has been the result of a number of causes, the most important of which are the immigration of foreign-born persons and the natural increase of the native-born population. The immigration of foreign-born persons has been the result of a number of causes, the most important of which are the desire for a better life, the desire for a better education, and the desire for a better religion. The natural increase of the native-born population has been the result of a number of causes, the most important of which are the desire for a better life, the desire for a better education, and the desire for a better religion. The immigration of foreign-born persons has been the result of a number of causes, the most important of which are the desire for a better life, the desire for a better education, and the desire for a better religion. The natural increase of the native-born population has been the result of a number of causes, the most important of which are the desire for a better life, the desire for a better education, and the desire for a better religion.